

DOA Administrative Letter No. 03-11

To: Adult Day Care Providers and Coordinators, Adult Program Representatives, Area Agency on Aging Directors

From: Karen Gottovi

Subject: Adult Day Care Transportation

Date: September 2003

It has come to our attention that there has been some confusion over the interpretation of the revised rules regarding transportation. On March 5, 2001 Senate Bill 334 unbundled the service of transportation from adult day care. General Statute 131D-6(b) was changed to reflect that adult day care programs are not required to provide transportation to participant; however, those programs that choose to provide transportation shall comply with rules adopted by the Commission for the health and safety of participants during transport.

Programs funded by the State Adult Day Care Fund (SADCF) have the option to modify their vendor agreement with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to remove transportation as a service provided through DSS. If the DSS vendor agreement does not identify transportation as an eligible service funded by the SADCF, the service can still be provided on a private-pay basis by the adult day program or under a separate vendor agreement using another funding source (e.g., the Social Services Block Grant).

Programs funded by the Home and Community Grant Block (HCCBG) to provide adult day care transportation services can use the \$1.50 per one-way trip unit reimbursement rate as a part of adult day services, or can use a calculated unit rate through HCCBG transportation. The HCCBG County Funding Plan has the option to designate the adult day care provider or another agency as a transportation provider. The transportation provider would either transport clients themselves or contract for client transportation. Since the cost of providing the HCCBG transportation is reimbursed on the basis of a calculated unit rate, it is not constrained by the \$1.50 one-way trip cost limit associated with adult day services.

If SADCF or HCCBG funds are used to support the cost of transporting clients, the only way a program can receive additional funding from the participant is through voluntary cost sharing, following the requirements established in cost-sharing policies under the Older Americans Act and the N.C. Division of Aging and Division of Social Services (DSS). When transportation is billed to the SADCF or HCCBG, contributions towards the cost of the service must be voluntary in nature and services cannot be denied for failure to pay towards the cost of the service.

If transportation is not billed to the SADCF or HCCBG, the adult day care program can offer transportation on a private-pay basis or decline to provide the service. Programs that do not use SADCF or HCCBG funds for transportation may bill the participant for the cost of the transportation service, even if the participant is receiving SADCF or HCCBG funding to support the cost of attending the program. The Division hopes that adult day care programs will continue to do their best to provide or arrange transportation for participants who need help in accessing the day care service. Assuring adequate transportation is essential to a successful program.

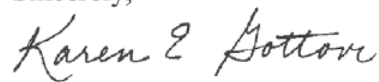
In some counties, the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP) administered by the Department of Transportation (DOT) is available to provide transportation funding for adult day

care participants. The DOT EDTAP rules allow the charging of a co-pay or sliding scale fee for transportation service. However, when SADC or HCCBG funds are combined with EDTAP funds to support transportation services, the clients cannot be billed.

Please note, the DSS Adult and Family Services Volume V, Chapter II has not been updated to reflect this change. The Division of Aging will be working within the next year update this section, which will also include other rule changes such as the addition of special care rules.

For questions, please contact Shannon Crane at 919-733-0440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen E. Gottovi".

Karen E. Gottovi, Director
Division of Aging

cc: Lynda McDaniel
John Tanner
Suzanne Merrill
Satana DeBerry